

Bulu language

Bulu is a Bantu language of the Bulu people of Cameroon. The language had 174,000 native speakers in 1982, with some 800,000 second language speakers in 1991. Its dialects include Bene, Yelinda, Yembana, Yengono, and Zaman. Bulu was formerly used by colonial and missionary groups as a lingua franca in the region for commercial, educational, and religious purposes, though it is today becoming less frequent in those spheres.

Bulu speakers are concentrated primarily in Cameroon's South Province, with the largest number at Ebolowa and Sangmélima. Some speakers live in the Nyong-et-Mfoumou division of the Centre and the Haut-Nyong division of the East.

Bulu belongs to the group of Beti languages and is intelligible with Eton, Ewondo, and Fang.

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Phonology

Consonants

	Bulu
	Bulu-Bene
	Bulu (Nkobô Bulu)
Region	Cameroon
Native speakers	860,000 (2007) ^[1]
Language family	<p>Niger–Congo</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Atlantic–Congo ▪ Benue–Congo ▪ Southern Bantoid ▪ Bantu (Zone A) ▪ Beti ▪ Bulu
Dialects	Bulu Bene
	Language codes
ISO 639-3	bum
Glottolog	bulu1251 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/bulu1251) ^[2]
Guthrie code	A.74 ^[3]

		Bilabial	Labial	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar		Glottal
						plain	lab.	
Plosive	voiceless	p		t	c	k		?
	voiced	b		d	ɟ	g		
	prenasal	mb		nd		ŋg		
Fricative	voiceless		f	s				h
	voiced		v	z				
	prenasal		m̺v					
Affricate	voiceless					kp	kpʷ	
	voiced					gb	gbʷ	
	prenasal-vl.					ŋkp	ŋkpʷ	
	prenasal-vd.					ŋgb	ŋgbʷ	
Nasal		m		n	ɳ	ɳ		
Lateral				l				
Approximant					j		w	

Vowels/Nasals

	Front	Central	Back
Close	i ī		u ū
Close-mid	e ē		o
Mid		ə	
Open-mid	ɛ		ɔ ɔ̄
Open		a ã	

[4][5]

References

1. Bulu (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/bum/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Bulu (Cameroon)" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/bulu1251>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. Jouni Filip Maho, 2009. New Updated Guthrie List Online (<https://web.archive.org/web/20180203191542/http://goto.glocalnet.net/mahopapers/nuglonline.pdf>)
4. "Systèmes alphabétiques des langues africaines d'après Alphabets des langues africaines Unesco-SIL 1993" (<http://sumale.vjf.cnrs.fr/phono/PhonologieN.php>). *Alphabets des langues africaines*. Retrieved 2018-06-07.
5. Abomo-Maurin, Marie-Rose (2006). *Parlons boulou: Langue bantou du Cameroun*. L'Harmattan.

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